COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331

http://dpw.lacounty.gov

GAIL FARBER, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

February 09, 2016

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

36 February 9, 2016

PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPROVE THE ADDENDUM TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
TOPANGA CANYON BOULEVARD UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT
IN THE UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY OF TOPANGA
CAPITAL PROJECT 77441
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3)
(3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

This action will adopt the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration to reflect a minor change in project construction methods and to find that implementing the project changes will not create new or more severe significant effects not considered in the project's Mitigated Negative Declaration.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Consider the Addendum to the previously adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Underground Utility project; find, on the basis of the whole record before the Board, that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment; find that the Addendum and the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Board; adopt the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and approve the Specific Plan of Work supplement to the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to adopt the enclosed Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Underground Utility project. The

MND included Cultural Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-3 to ensure impacts to archeological resources are reduced to a less than significant impact. Cultural Mitigation Measure CUL-3 incorporates a Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan (Plan) to be implemented during ground disturbing activities to address possible impacts to Native American archeological deposits. The Cultural Mitigation Measure CUL-5 addresses the protocol if human remains are encountered during ground disturbing activities.

On January 12, 2012, the Board established the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Underground Utility District; approved the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Underground Utility District project, Capital Project 77441; scope and budget of $1,000,000 to provide environmental coordination; monitoring; and mitigation to address impacts to the environment from the undergrounding of existing overhead electrical and communication facilities; and adopted the MND.

The Addendum to the MND discusses a supplemental plan of work to the original Plan. The supplemental plan of work provides additional details to be implemented into the investigations to be conducted according to the Plan under Cultural Mitigation Measure CUL-3. It also provides for the disposition of Native American remains in accordance to the Mitigation Measure CUL-5. These refinements to Mitigation Measures CUL-3 and CUL-5 have been developed to address construction site and permitting conditions arising since the adoption of the MND.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3). This action will facilitate the utility undergrounding activities to improve the appearance and enhance safety in the area.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The County project cost is estimated to be $1,000,000, which includes environmental documentation and needed environmental mitigation during construction, funded with Enhanced Unincorporated Area Services (Proposition 62) allocated to the Third Supervisorial District. Sufficient appropriation is available in Fiscal Year 2015-16 Capital Projects/Refurbishments Budget under Capital Project 77441.

Pursuant to the California Public Utilities Commission Tariff Rule 20A, the estimated cost of $3,400,000 to underground the utility lines will be funded by the California Public Utilities Commission Tariff Rule 20A funds available to Southern California Edison.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On January 24, 2012, Agenda Item 9, the Board adopted a resolution establishing the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Underground Utility District requiring that overhead electrical and communication facilities within the district be removed and replaced with underground electrical and communication facilities, and also adopted the MND and attendant Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Underground Utility project.

The enclosed Addendum to the MND is necessary to amend the Plan incorporated into the Cultural Mitigation Measure CUL-3 in the MND. The Addendum provides proposed changes to the investigations to be carried out as mitigation for possible impacts to archeological resources under Cultural Mitigation Measure CUL-3 and alternatives for the disposition of human remains in accordance to the Cultural Mitigation Measure CUL-5. Based upon the initial study of environmental factors, the Addendum to the MND determined that the project will not have any additional impact on the environment. All impacts from the project as described in the Addendum would remain less than significant with the mitigation included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. Therefore, approval of the Addendum to the MND is requested at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

On January 24, 2012, Agenda Item 9, the Board approved the MND for the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Underground Utility project. The MND found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment in accordance with the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act. In accordance with Sections 15162 and 15164(b) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, an Addendum to the MND was prepared since there are only minor construction changes that do not result in any significant effect on the environment. The changes are identified in the Addendum to the MND. Upon the Board's adoption of the Addendum to the MND, the Department of Public Works will file a Notice of Determination for the revisions to the Addendum to the MND in accordance with Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code and pay the required filing and processing fees with the County Clerk in the amount of $75.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The project will have a positive impact by providing improved roadway facilities for the traveling public, thereby benefitting the community.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Programs Development Division.

Respectfully submitted,

GAIL FARBER
Director

GF:JTW:yr

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office (Rochelle Goff)
County Counsel (Lauren Dods)
Executive Office

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ADDENDUM TO AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR TOPANGA UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT PROJECT

SUBJECT: Preparation of an Addendum to an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Topanga Underground Utility District Relocation project in compliance with the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15164.

PROJECT: The Topanga Underground Utility District Relocation project proposes to relocate overhead utility distribution lines along Old Topanga Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. Those utility lines that currently cross aerially over the Topanga Canyon Creek Bridge just north of Topanga Canyon Boulevard on Old Topanga Canyon Road would be placed alongside the bridge via a utility conduit. The proposed project would remove 28 existing utility poles. The proposed project extends approximately 1,600 feet along Old Topanga Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The project area of the proposed Topanga UUD is approximately 3.6 acres.

LOCATION: The project site is located in the unincorporated community of Topanga in western Los Angeles County and is contained within the existing roadways of Old Topanga Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Boulevard (Figure 1). The site can be found on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Van Nuys topographic quadrangle in Township 2 North, Range 14 West, Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, and 32.

APPROVED PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would relocate overhead utility distribution lines along Old Topanga Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The proposed project extends approximately 1,600 feet along Old Topanga Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The project area of the proposed Topanga UUD is approximately 3.6 acres. The proposed project starts at the intersection of Cuesta Cala Road and South Topanga Canyon Boulevard, loops north and branches off along Old Topanga Canyon Road, then terminates north along Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

The proposed project would remove approximately 28 utility distribution poles and relocate approximately 2,100 linear feet of overhead utility distribution conductor lines along Old Topanga Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The utility lines that currently cross aerially over Topanga Canyon Creek at the Topanga Canyon Creek Bridge just north of Topanga Canyon Boulevard on Old Topanga Canyon Road would be placed alongside the bridge via a utility conduit. All the other overhead utility lines, which represent a total of seven various companies, would be placed underground primarily within the existing ROW. Project construction activities are being undertaken by Southern California Edison (SCE) under the conditions of California Public Utilities Commission Rule 20A.

DATE OF PROJECT APPROVAL: Original IS/MND approved January 24, 2012.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The project includes trenching and excavating through existing Caltrans Right-Of-Way to install underground utility lines. As discussed in the Cultural Resources section of the IS/MND, the project has the potential to result in significant effects on archaeological resources. The IS/MND includes five Mitigation Measures to ensure the protection and appropriate treatment of cultural and paleontological resources. Compliance with Mitigation Measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-3** will reduce potentially significant effects on archaeological resources to a less-than-significant level. Compliance with Mitigation Measures **CUL-4** and **CUL-5** will reduce to a less-than-significant level any impacts to paleontological resources or human remains, respectively, that may be encountered on the Project. The text of these Mitigation Measures is provided in ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL CHANGES, below.

Mitigation Measure **CUL-3** requires that a Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan be implemented for all ground disturbing activities associated with the project. The Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan includes provisions intended to enable the recovery of significant archeological information if potentially significant archaeological deposits

(prehistoric or historic) are encountered during construction, and prescribes methodologies to accomplish such recovery. The construction to date at the site has revealed a substantial and apparently intact archaeological deposit at the location of Vault V5641010, and suggests that additional substantial deposits may be encountered during excavation of a manhole approximately 90 feet to the south (see Figure 1). Additionally, these findings also suggest that intact cultural deposits may be encountered during trenching for utility installation along and within Highway 27. Project activities have triggered the implementation of those provisions.

A Specific Plan of Work for Archeological Mitigation has been developed to address construction site and permitting conditions that have arisen since the adoption of the MND. The Specific Plan of Work provides additional details and alternative methodologies to be implemented into the investigations to be conducted per the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan under Mitigation Measure **CUL-3**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL CHANGES:

This Addendum to the Topanga Underground Utility District MND is necessary to address implementation of the Specific Plan of Work for Archeological Mitigation, providing additional details for field mitigation of anticipated effects to cultural resources associated with the construction of the Topanga Underground Utility District Project (Project) within archaeological site CA-LAN-8, Topanga, California. This Specific Plan of Work is a supplement to the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan included in the Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). Implementation of the Specific Plan of Work has been approved by all stakeholders in the project, including the property owner (Caltrans) and involved Native American tribes.

An updated initial study was conducted with respect to criteria of the 2015 California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines and IS/MND for the Topanga Underground Utility District Relocation project.

The initial study and checklist analysis indicate that minor technical changes to the MND for the environmental factor **Cultural Resources** are necessary to implement the Specific Plan of Work. The remaining environmental factors discussed in the MND are unaffected by the changes.

Cultural Resources: As discussed in the MND, the project may result in impacts to an archeological resource, CA-LAN-8. The IS/MND includes five Mitigation Measures to ensure the protection and appropriate treatment of cultural and paleontological resources. Compliance with Mitigation Measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-3** will reduce potentially significant effects on archaeological resources to a less-than-significant level. Compliance with Mitigation Measures **CUL-4** and **CUL-5** will reduce to a less-than-significant level any impacts to paleontological resources or human remains, respectively, that may be encountered on the Project.

The following mitigation measures are from the project MND and have not been changed as a part of this addendum.

CUL-1 As the excavation along the alignment will result in an adverse effect and impacts to significant archaeological resources, it is recommended that during the final design phase, DPW, in coordination with SCE, shall design the trench to be placed along the south/western side of the ROW in order to avoid areas with high potential to contain intact cultural deposits.

CUL-2 It is anticipated that all staging areas would take place within the Study Area boundaries, However, should staging areas, or other project related areas of impact be designed to be located outside of the Study Area, these areas will require additional survey prior to the start of construction to determine that the location is free of cultural resources.

CUL-4 In the event any paleontological resources are encountered during earthmoving activities, the construction contractor shall cease activity in the affected area until the discovery can be evaluated by a qualified paleontological resources specialist in accordance with the provisions of CEQA §15064.5.

The following mitigation measures are from the project MND and are supplemented by implementation of the Specific Plan of Work.

CUL-3 The following *Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan* is required to be implemented for all ground disturbing activities associated with the project. The *Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan* includes a plan for the recovery of significant information during construction monitoring of all ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project:

Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan

As part of the *Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan*, a qualified archaeological monitor and a Native American representative shall be present to monitor any and all ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project. This includes construction activities. All hand excavation conducted by archaeologists will also have a Native American monitor in attendance. The implementation of the *Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan* will be overseen by a qualified Principal Investigator in Prehistoric Archaeology meeting the Caltrans Professionally Qualified Staff standards as identified in Section 106 PA Attachment 1.

Mechanical Excavation. Because the intact deposits are beneath the road and likely under a layer of fill, all excavation for the proposed project will be monitored by a qualified archaeological monitor and Native American Monitor. After project design, portions of the project located within the mapped location of CA-LAN-8 (see Figure 4, Appendix B) will be excavated under the direction of the archaeological monitor and the archaeological Principal Investigator. During this process the existing pavement will be removed and any recent fill associated with road construction or previous installation of utilities will be mechanically removed. This excavation will be carefully monitored by an archaeologist and a Native American.

Controlled Excavation. When apparently intact archaeological deposits are encountered (manifested by organically-rich soil with artifacts and shell), the entire archaeological deposit exposed by the mechanical trenching will be excavated by hand using standard archaeological techniques. These will include the following:

- *Excavation Units:* Excavation units will measure 1 by 1 m and will be hand-excavated in 10-cm levels to sterile sediments. Depending on the compactness of the soil, tools used during the excavation may include picks, dig bars, shovels, and trowels. The soil from the units will be transported to a water-screening facility where they will be processed through 1/8-inch mesh hardware cloth and all cultural materials will be collected. The units will be excavated through at least one sterile level or to bedrock. Each unit will be documented in a standard unit notebook. If subsurface hearths, house floors, artifact concentrations, or

other features are encountered, they will be carefully exposed and partially pedestaled to assess their structure and extent. Typically, the features will then be bisected to expose a cross section prior to their removal.

- *Field Documentations and Data Management:* The locations of the excavation units will be controlled with reference to the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid using a submeter Global Positioning System (GPS). Collections from each unit will be bagged and labeled with the site number, unit designation, level, date, and excavator. Each bag will be assigned a unique number that will be entered in a daily bag log. The field director will check in each bag at the end of each field day. The completed bags will be placed in labeled cardboard banker's boxes until the completion of each unit, when the boxes will be transported to the laboratory. The field director will maintain sets of field notes that will document daily activities.

Special Samples. The field investigations are likely to include the collection of a variety of specialized samples. Although the full range of such samples will depend on specific findings in the field, it is anticipated that samples for radiocarbon dating, protein residue, and soil flotation will be collected. Procedures to collect and process these samples in the field are described below.

- *Radiocarbon:* Radiocarbon samples collected in the field will be wrapped in foil and placed in separate containers. Fragile samples, such as charcoal, will be protected by placing them in film canisters or small cardboard boxes.

- *Soil and Column Samples:* Two column samples will be taken from selected units for flotation and fine-mesh screening. The column samples will measure 10 by 10 cm and will be removed in 10-cm levels. If natural strata are visible, soil from those strata will be segregated within the from each 10-cm level will be placed in labeled plastic bags for transport to the laboratory. Additional soil samples from hearths or other features will also be placed in labeled plastic bags.

- *Protein Residue:* Up to 10 flaked lithic specimens (projectile points or apparent scraping tools) will be placed in plastic zip-closure bags for protein residue analysis. To avoid contamination these will receive minimal handling.

Laboratory Procedures and Cataloging

At the completion of fieldwork, materials collected in the field will be transported to the AECOM laboratory. The materials will arrive at the laboratory in labeled plastic or paper bags placed in labeled cardboard banker's boxes (exceptions may include extremely large artifacts such as complete metates; these will be tied with string and labeled tags attached). The boxes will be placed in a check-in area of the lab, where the arriving materials will be checked against the field logs. Once check-in is complete, the materials will be washed, with the exception of soil and column samples and pieces that may be selected for special studies or that may be useful for such studies in the future. Groundstone, for example, will not typically be washed unless necessary for typological identification. Projectile points and other flaked stone tools, which may contain protein residues, will also not be washed unless necessary for adequate description and analysis. Washed materials will be air-dried in labeled drying racks and rebagged for cataloging.

Upon completion of the washing and drying, the materials will be separated into major classes (flaked stone debitage and tools; groundstone; bone tools; modified and unmodified shell; faunal bone; column samples; and the like) and entered into a master catalog. The catalog will be in Microsoft Access or Excel and will include catalog number, provenience, material type, counts, and weights. As indicated above, a series of column samples will be taken from selected units, and additional soil samples will be taken as appropriate from hearths or other features. Soil from these samples will be subjected to flotation by gently agitating it in water to separate the light from heavy fraction. The heavy fraction will be screened through 1/16-inch mesh hardware cloth, dried, and sorted. Identified cultural materials will be analyzed according to the procedures discussed below. The light fraction will also be sorted and materials that may relate to prehistoric cultural activities (such as charcoal or carbonized seeds) will be collected and analyzed by the paleobotanical specialist. Initial processing of the column and soil samples will be undertaken at the AECOM laboratory.

Analysis. The analyses of collected materials will commence after the completion of the master catalog. Although specific procedures for the analyses will depend to some extent on the findings at individual sites, the data currently at hand do indicate several classes of materials likely to be recovered. These include flaked stone artifacts, ground and battered artifacts, fire-affected rock, and faunal remains. The analyses of these materials will be directed at providing data useful in addressing the research issues discussed previously.

Debitage Analysis. The analyzed lithic debitage will be sorted into gross categories according to size, material type, and amount of cortex. Following that, samples of debitage from selected proveniences will be analyzed in detail. Analytical variables will include the following:

- *Material Type:* As discussed above, material type may be useful in assessing mobility and exchange patterns. For the present analysis, *volcanic* refers to material derived from extruded igneous rocks that have crystallized on the surface at atmospheric pressures. Common examples are basalt, dacite, and rhyolite. The term *metavolcanic* refers to the same volcanic minerals that have been metamorphosed by heat and pressure. The term *cryptocrystalline* (CCS) refers to rocks or minerals that are high in silicates such as chert and chalcedony.

- *Completeness:* Debitage assemblages from Southern California often contain high frequencies of incomplete flakes, which are usually uninformative with respect to other variables relating to technology. For this reason, flakes that are missing substantial portions of the proximal, distal, or lateral edges will be considered incomplete and will not be further analyzed.

- *Flake Size:* In a general sense, the relative size of individual flakes can provide basic information on tool production; for example, evenly distributed size categories might suggest that the full range of production took place on-site; while higher frequencies of small flakes could suggest that only late-stage tool finishing and retouch took place there. This, in turn, has implications with respect to mobility and site function. To assess size, the debitage will be sorted into five size categories (<1 cm, 1.1–2 cm, 2.1-3 cm, 3.1–4 cm, and >4 cm) based on maximum flake length.

- *Cortex:* Similar to flake size, the amount of cortex represented in debitage assemblages can provide information on stage of production. Higher frequencies of cortical flakes suggest early-stage production, for example, and could suggest procurement in the local area. Noncortical flakes are later stage. Categories for cortex amount include primary lakes (cortex completely covering the dorsal side), secondary (cortex partially covering the dorsal side), and interior (no cortex).

- *Technological Stage:* Technological analysis can provide important information on the types of and variability of tools that are manufactured on-site. Major categories to be used in the debitage analysis include core reduction, biface reduction, pressure reduction, and angular waste. Core reduction flakes are identified as having platforms that are thick and wide in relation to the flake, usually with a single facet, although multiple facets may occasionally be present. Dorsal flake scars are variable but generally few in number and originate from a single direction. The flakes are flat in long section and usually have contracting terminations. Biface reduction flakes typically expand and are curved or twisted in longitudinal cross section. They have multiple flake scars, particularly on late-stage flakes that originate in different directions. Platforms are small in relation to the flake and may have either single or multiple facets. Terminations are feathered, thin, and have small edge angles. Pressure flakes are defined as the flakes removed from along the margins of tools in order to thin and sharpen the edges. Angular waste is defined as chunks of materials that lack the attributes of flakes.

Flaked Stone Tools. Flaked stone tools will be separated into several categories. These include flake tools, which include flakes that have been modified along the edge by minimal, intentional flaking (modified flakes); flakes that are unifacially retouched along one or more margins, with the retouch extending across one face (unifaces); and flakes that exhibit use wear but are otherwise unmodified (utilized flakes). The assemblage may also include tools that are retouched along one or more margins, with the retouch extending across both faces (bifaces), and projectile points.

- *Flake Tools:* Standard measures of size, weight, and material will be recorded for each flake tool, as well as completeness, flake type, and type of modification. Flake type refers to whether the flake was struck from a core or biface, an important consideration in assessing how lithic materials were transported across the landscape. Type of modification will refer to how the edge was modified, i.e., obverse, inverse, alternating, and bifacial. Additionally, the number of modified edges will be recorded as a potential measure of the intensity of use of these artifacts.

- *Bifaces:* Attributes recorded for bifaces will include material, size, weight, completeness, and production stage. Material categories will be similar to those described above. Size will be measured by length, width, and thickness; for broken pieces, incomplete dimensions will not be included in the

analyses. Production stage of each biface will be identified with reference to the five-stage sequence.

- *Projectile Points:* Although projectile points are typically (but not always) bifaces, they will be analyzed with reference to a number of additional attributes, including distal and proximal shoulder angles, neck widths, notch opening index, and basal width. These and the standard measures of length, width, and thickness will be applied to standard projectile point keys to assign points to types.

Groundstone Artifacts. For this analysis, each groundstone artifact will be assigned to a specific subcategory based on attributes suggestive of the item's function. For the present effort, it is anticipated that these subtypes will include milling implements, vessels, ritual paraphernalia, other groundstone tools, and undifferentiated groundstone artifacts. Milling implements are those used to reduce intermediate substances to a finer texture through the process of grinding, crushing, pounding, or pulverizing. Substances reduced by this process are typically vegetal resources but may also include animal products or pigments and clays. Groundstone artifacts falling within this class include netherstones and handstones. Netherstones and handstones are counterparts to one another in the milling process, with netherstones being the stationary surface on which the movable handstone is used. Subtypes of handstones identified during the present analysis will most likely consist of manos and pestles, while netherstones will likely include metates and mortars.

Recorded attributes of handstones will include shouldering, shaping, pecking, and battering, and evidence for heat alteration. Manos will also be recorded as bifacial or unifacial. Metates will be categorized as "slab" or "basin" metates based on whether they exhibit any discernible depression on their grinding surfaces. Artifacts classified as mortars have basins exhibiting use-wear resulting from crushing, pounding, or abrading. Bowls, however, do not evidence usewear, except in those instances when striations associated with stirring are present. The presence of broad basins and flat bottoms also distinguishes bowls from mortars, which usually possess round bottoms and conical-shaped basins. In cases where examination of these attributes does not reveal any clear indication as to whether an artifact was a mortar or bowl, a subtype of "mortar/bowl" may be applied.

The length, width, and thickness of all complete and fragmentary groundstone specimens will be measured and cataloged. Length is measured at the longest axis and width is measured at the axis perpendicular to length. Thickness measurements are taken at the

thickest cross section. Each complete artifact and fragment will be examined macroscopically in an effort to identify indicators of patterned wear resulting from grinding activities on the operating surface of the tool. Such indicators include striations, crushed grains, leveled areas, and sheen or polish. Macroscopic examination will include observation of the specimens under high and low intensity light, and under both direct and cross lighting.

Evidence of preuse manufacture or shaping will also be documented. Shaping is typically indicated by the presence of battering scars and/or pecking of the tool's ends or edges, and/or by grinding and polishing. Unshaped groundstone items will be categorized as "expedient" tools, while those exhibiting one or more of the characteristics associated with shaping will be categorized as "designed" tools. The number of surfaces evidencing use-wear will be noted for each specimen. Unifacial items are those with a single operating surface, bifacial indicates two operating surfaces, and multi-facial indicates the presence of three or more operating surfaces. Evidence of resurfacing or retexturing of each tool's operating surface/s will also be noted.

Faunal Remains. Each identified piece of animal bone will be sorted into identifiable and unidentifiable categories by both element and taxon. They then will be identified to genus or species where possible. When such identification is not possible, elements will be identified to the family, order, or class level. Specimens identified only to the class level (particularly mammals) will be separated into size categories of small, medium, and large animals. Those that cannot be identified at least to the class level will be simply identified as vertebrate bone. When possible each specimen will be identified to element (skull, humerus, femur, etc.). Identified portions of the elements, such as distal, proximal, or shaft, will also be recorded. Degree of burning will also be recorded, as well as any cultural or noncultural modifications such as cutmarks, polishing, weathering, gnawing, or digestive pitting.

Because some of the bone (particularly bone of burrowing animals) may be intrusive, attempts will be made to distinguish culturally occurring from naturally occurring specimens. Various published methods will be applied to this effort, with primary factors including degree of weathering, color, presence of digestive pitting, staining, percentage of juvenile individuals, and distinctive feathering of long bone ends.

Marine shell recovered during the testing will be sorted according to species. Because the shell is likely to be highly fragmentary, the represented species will be quantified by weight rather than counts. Hinges, however, will be counted and applied to estimates of minimum numbers of individuals.

Plant Remains. Analyzed plant remains are likely to include macrofossils (charred seeds), charcoal, pollen, and phytoliths. Plant macrofossils will be targeted through flotation of soil from column samples or features. Pollen and phytoliths will be recovered from both soil samples and washes of selected groundstone artifacts.

Curation. Recovered cultural materials will be curated at the San Diego Archaeological Center, which meets the requirements set forth in federal regulation 36 CFR Part 79 (Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections) and State of California Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Collections.

*Approval of this Addendum will supplement **CUL-3** with the following Specific Plan of Work:*

SPECIFIC PLAN OF WORK FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

This Specific Plan of Work is a supplement to the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan included in the Project IS/MND. Specifically, it is intended to provide additional detail to the proposed investigations to be conducted under Mitigation Measure CUL-3 of the IS/MND, based on initial findings made during construction. As detailed below, the construction to date at the site has revealed a substantial and apparently intact archaeological deposit at the location of Vault V5641010, and suggests that additional substantial deposits may be encountered during excavation of a manhole approximately 90 feet to the south. Additionally, these findings also suggest that intact cultural deposits may be encountered during trenching for utility installation along and within Highway 27. The following discussion first summarizes the general methods to be applied to the data recovery, then reviews specific methods proposed for the location of Vault V5641010 and the nearby manhole, as well as for data recovery along the trench alignments.

General Methods

- Archaeological excavations will not extend beyond the horizontal or vertical limits of the Project construction impacts except under special circumstances as described below.

- In general, archaeological features will be excavated only up to the boundaries of the impact area required for Project civil construction. If special circumstances arise, such as the discovery of an intact human burial, the appropriate treatment, including the possibility of excavating beyond the limits of the Project impact, will be addressed with the designated representatives from Caltrans, LACDPW, SCE, and the Project MLD.

- All soils from hand excavations within Vault V5641010 will be screened through 1/16-inch mesh screens, as requested by the representative Native American monitors and the Project MLD. Due to the low concentrations of human remains as revealed by the ongoing hand excavations, cultural deposits that are mechanically excavated from the vault after the hand excavation is complete will be screened through 1/8-inch screen, consistent with the procedures established in the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan included in the IS/MND.

- Soils from hand-excavated cultural deposits in other areas of the site, including the manhole and along the utility trenches, will be screened through 1/16-inch screen. Soils from mechanically excavated cultural deposits may be screened through 1/8-inch screen in consultation with the designated representatives from Caltrans, LACDPW, SCE, and the Project MLD.

- All artifacts and ecofacts (shell and faunal bone) will be collected in the field and separated by material type to protect fragile items.

- If encountered, human bone will be handled respectfully and placed in separate cloth bags. The project team will be notified each day that human remains are encountered to ensure transparency.

- Artifacts will be secured daily and removed to the downtown Los Angeles AECOM office where they will be stored in the locked laboratory and storage facility.

- Artifact analysis and specialized studies will follow the procedures and requirements established in the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan included in the Project IS/MND.

- Upon the initiation of work in the Vault V5641010 location, the entire excavation area and a reasonable working area around the excavation will be fenced with moveable fencing that can be locked securely. On the traffic-facing sides of the fencing, some kind of visibility barrier is recommended to reduce undue distraction of motorists. Opaque wind barriers may be used around the entire enclosure to reduce the chance of dust pollution from excavation and dry screening activities.

- At the conclusion of the project, a location within the Caltrans right-of-way may be designated for reburial of human remains, as determined by consultation between Caltrans and the MLD. Alternatively, an off-site location or a location outside of Caltrans property may be designated for reburial if arrangements can be made that are acceptable to the MLD and any other relevant parties including involved land owners.

Mitigation Investigations at Vault V5641010

The area of disturbance for Vault V5641010 measures 24 feet by 11 feet and will be 13.5 feet deep. The discussion below addresses the specific archaeological mitigation measures to be undertaken at this vault.

Description and Assessment

On Tuesday, July 28, 2015, an apparently intact cultural deposit was identified by an archaeological monitor from Compass Rose working at the direction of SCE. The deposit was uncovered during the excavation of a test (slot) trench in the planned location of Vault V5641010, south of the intersection of Old Topanga Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Boulevard (SR 27) and within the Caltrans rightof-way for SR 27. Upon inspection of the identified cultural deposit on Wednesday, July 29, 2015, the archaeologists and Native American representatives present agreed that the soils in the spoil pile and those visible in the trench profile were consistent with midden deposits (cultural habitation deposits) in coastal southern California. Further, several prehistoric artifacts had been collected the day before and were evident on the surface of the spoils pile, including marine shell, animal bone, flaked stone debitage (waste products), informal flaked stone tools, and a piece of ground steatite (likely a bowl rim). On the basis of the visual inspection, and the presence of numerous prehistoric artifacts, AECOM concurred that a cultural deposit, possibly an intact midden

deposit, had been encountered at this location. Further, this deposit appears to be a portion of the previously identified site CA-LAN-8.

In order to assess the nature of the deposit, AECOM archaeologists hand screened all dark midden soils removed from the test trench. The soils were dry-screened using 1/8-inch hardware mesh. On July 30, 2015, a human tooth (molar) was recovered from the screens and the Native American monitors present requested that AECOM begin using finer, 1/16-inch mesh for dry screening of the spoil pile material, to minimize the loss of any fragmentary human remains. AECOM began screening using 1/16-inch screens the following day and completed screening of the entire deposit within the test trench on August 5, 2015. Collected materials include flaked stone tools and debitage (waste debris), fragmentary groundstone implements, marine shell, faunal (animal) bones, worked bone items, marine shell beads, worked stone ornaments and beads, and fragmentary human remains including four teeth and several cranial and other bone fragments. Although the presence of some historic items within the midden indicate a degree of disturbance from either rodents or historic activities, in general the deposit appears to have fair to good physical integrity.

Currently, the interior surface of the vault has been gridded into 12 units that measure 1 m square, and, along the walls of the vault, 11 units measuring 1 m by 0.5 m. Controlled hand excavations have been initiated at most of these, and has revealed a dark stratum of relatively dense cultural material (midden) that represents the main cultural deposit. This is underlain by lighter-colored sediments that appear to contain substantially fewer cultural remains. There is evidence within at least four of the 1x1 m units for heavy disturbance from the recent excavation of a trench; the fill of the trench may contain cultural materials but otherwise has little archaeological integrity. The discussion below outlines the proposed methods to be applied to the completion of the archaeological investigations within the vault.

Mitigation Plan

As specified in Mitigation Measure **CUL-3**, appropriate mitigation requires "the recovery of significant information" from an encountered cultural resource. The mitigation methods proposed herein for the data recovery are aimed at the recovery of scientifically significant information sufficient to reconstruct the nature of the prehistoric use of the area, the duration and timing of that use, and any change over time or space in that use. In

addition, data relevant to critical research questions pertaining to the site and region, as specified in the Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment included in the Project IS/MND, will be collected, analyzed, and reported.

The following discussion provides implementation procedures specific to the cultural resources encountered in the Vault V5641010 location. This Plan is a supplement to and clarification of the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan included in the Project IS/MND. This supplemental Plan of Work describes the specific manner in which mitigation of impacts will be addressed, but no new impacts are identified and no new mitigations are recommended. Mitigation work will generally follow the methods and procedures specified in the IS/MND, with the following refinements and modifications:

If the data recovery of cultural materials at Vault V5641010 and associated trenches is anticipated to require *more than two additional months* of work (standard work weeks, no overtime), AECOM will confer with the relevant parties concerning options to achieve appropriate mitigation of the deposit as expeditiously as possible and in keeping with the intent of MM CUL-3. Options will include the following:

- **Hand Excavation:** If the deposit is found to contain several intact features, discrete pockets of diverse materials, intact human interments, or other signs that the deposit is not largely homogeneous horizontally, then hand excavation of the entirety of the deposit within the area of construction disturbance may be recommended.

- If several intact and in situ human interments (including partial interments, secondary interments, and cremations) are encountered during testing, the treatment of these interments will be determined through consultation among the appropriate project stakeholders.

- **Hand Excavation and Controlled Mechanical Excavation:** If the deposit is found to be relatively homogenous horizontally (that is, containing roughly the same quantity and diversity of materials in spatially discrete units placed across the deposit), and few or no features are encountered during testing, then sampling of the deposit by hand excavation combined with controlled mechanical excavation may be recommended. This sampling will be aimed at achieving appropriate mitigation of the resource through the "the recovery of significant information" as specified in MM CUL-3. Due to the proven homogeneity of the deposit, a

sample of that deposit will suffice to provide significant information that will allow for reasonable scientific characterization of the deposit and site CA-LAN-8. If chosen and approved by Caltrans, SCE, LACDPW, and Chair Morales (the Project MLD), the option of a combined hand excavation and mechanical excavation program of data recovery will entail the following:

- Sampling of the deposit will include the hand excavation of the dark, dense cultural deposits within each of the 12 1x1 meter (m) units within the vault that have not been heavily disturbed by the previous trenching. Excavation in these units will continue into the lighter subsoil to confirm that the lighter deposits contain few cultural materials.

- In at least two of these units, the excavation will continue into the lighter subsoil, either to fully sterile sediments or to the depth of construction disturbance. However, a larger hand-excavation sample may be recommended depending upon the results of the excavations and recommendations from the Project MLD and staff from SCE, LACDPW, and Caltrans.

- The units that have been so heavily disturbed by the recent trench as to have no archaeological integrity may be removed either by uncontrolled hand excavation or mechanically, in consultation with the Native American monitor.

- Hand excavation of the 1x0.5m units along the perimeter of the vault will continue in order to accommodate the installation of shoring plates. Once the plates are in place, the limited cultural deposits remaining along the vault perimeter will be removed mechanically.

- Soils from the excavation units within the vault and any dark midden deposits removed mechanically from the vault will be screened through 1/16-inch mesh.

- During controlled mechanical excavation, an archaeologist from AECOM will be present to guide the heavy equipment, which would be outfitted with an appropriate blade (most likely a flat blade no wider than 3 feet). Mechanical excavations will also be observed by a Native American monitor.

- If any indications of cultural features (soil color changes, artifact concentrations, etc.) are encountered, the archaeologist will stop the mechanical excavation and investigate the possible feature by hand.

- All identified cultural features will be excavated by hand following the procedures in the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan included in the Project IS/MND.
- Archaeological excavations will not extend below the depth of construction disturbance for the vault.

- Soil collected from controlled mechanical excavation may be spot screened, fully screened, or not screened, dependent upon the probable sensitivity of the deposit, as defined during the testing program, and per the recommendations from the MLD, Caltrans, SCE, and LACDWP.

- If soils are anticipated to contain human remains, all unscreened soil and a portion of screened soil may be retained for respectful reburial elsewhere per agreements between the MLD and the land owner, Caltrans.

Mitigation Investigations at Manhole Location

The proposed manhole is located approximately 90 feet south/southeast of Vault V5641010, near the south end of the parking lot for the Topanga post office. Because this location is in a setting generally similar to that of the vault, it is possible that the excavation for the manhole will also encounter cultural deposits. The approach to the mitigation of impacts such deposits would be generally similar to those described above for Vault V5641010.

- Excavations at the manhole location will be initiated mechanically, and will be closely monitored by an archaeologist. Excavation will continue until potentially intact cultural deposits are encountered, or until the excavation of the manhole box is complete.

- If potentially intact cultural deposits are identified, overburden will be carefully removed mechanically to a point just above the surface of the cultural deposit. The mixed fills overlying the cultural deposit will be spot-screened through 1/8 inch mesh to confirm that the fills

do not contain significant quantities of cultural materials. Once the bulk of the overburden has been removed, AECOM archaeologists will clear any remaining overburden by hand.

- Once the surface of the cultural deposit is exposed, a series of 1-by-1 m excavation units will be laid out within the manhole area, targeting an approximately 20% sample of the identified cultural deposits. These units will be excavated by hand either to culturally sterile deposits or to the depth limit of the manhole excavation at approximately 13.5 feet (4m) below ground surface. Decisions regarding the need for additional excavation at the manhole will be made in consultation with the MLD, Caltrans, and LACDWP.

- At the conclusion of the hand excavations, the remaining cultural deposits will be carefully removed mechanically under close observation by an archaeologist and Native American monitor. At the conclusion of the hand excavations, the remaining cultural deposits will be carefully removed mechanically under close observation by an archaeologist and Native American monitor.

- Soil from the hand excavations will be reduced initially on-site through 1/16 inch mesh screen, then transported to an off-site facility for water screening. Cultural deposits removed mechanically will be screened through 1/16 inch mesh.

Mitigation Investigations Within Utility Trenches

The underground utility alignment generally follows the north and west shoulder of the southbound lane of Highway 27, which follows the edge of the terrace overlooking Topanga Creek. Utility alignments will also cross the highway at three locations. The utilities will be installed in a trench measuring approximately 2 feet wide and typically about 6.5 feet deep. Some locations will require deeper trenching, as for example at the location of Vault V5641010, which will require a connection at the base of the vault at 13.5 feet below the surface. Currently, apparently intact cultural deposits have been encountered along the alignment at a location just north of the intersection of Highway 27 and Old Topanga Road, and as discussed above the location of Vault V5641010 has also been determined to contain archaeological deposits. It therefore appears that substantial portions of the remaining utility alignments within the site may contain archaeological deposits as well.

Due to the extent of the remaining utility alignments within CA-LAN-8 (approximately 600 feet [180 m]), the archaeological investigations will employ a combination of sample hand excavations, monitored mechanical removal, and water screening to recover archaeological materials within the trenches.

- **Hand Excavation:** Hand excavation will target a sample of 10% of all intact cultural deposits within the utility alignments. This will provide a significant sample of the cultural deposits and will constitute adequate mitigation of impacts to scientific values at CA-LAN-8.

    - Along most of the utility alignments, AECOM will work with the contractor to carefully remove road base and overburden at intervals spaced approximately 10 m apart. At each sampling location, the overburden will be removed along a short segment approximately 10 feet (3 m) in length. Where no cultural deposits are encountered these short trenches may be extended slightly in either direction to identify archeological deposits. Where deposits are encountered, the surface will be carefully cleared using a shovel for hand excavation.

    - At each location along the utility alignments where potentially intact cultural deposits are identified, an excavation unit will be placed. Each unit will measure 50 cm by 100 cm and will be oriented along the trench. Each unit will be excavated by hand according to the procedures in the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan included in the Project IS/MND.

    - Soil removed from the hand excavations will be reduced through dry screen on-site then transported to an off-site water screening facility. All screening of hand excavated cultural deposits within the utility alignment will be through 1/16-inch mesh screen.

    - Some locations along the utility alignments where hand excavation is not feasible due to safety concerns (i.e., the deep trenching adjacent to Vault V5641010) may be excluded from the hand sampling program. In these instances the level of hand excavation may be increased in other portions of the alignment to achieve adequate sampling.

- No archaeological sampling will be conducted outside of the lateral or vertical limits of construction of the trenches.

- **Controlled Mechanical Excavation:** Once the hand-excavated sampling is complete, the remaining cultural deposits along the trench will be removed mechanically. All mechanical excavation will be closely observed by an archaeologist and Native American monitor.

    - If any indications of cultural features are encountered, the archaeologist will stop the mechanical excavation and investigate the possible feature by hand. If the presence of a cultural feature is confirmed, it will be excavated by hand according to procedures in the Monitoring Protocol and Data Recovery Treatment Plan included in the Project IS/MND.

    - Soils from the mechanical excavations may be spot screened, fully screened, or not screened, dependent upon the probable sensitivity of the deposit, as determined in consultation with the MLD, Caltrans, SCE, and LACDWP. All soils mechanically excavated from identified intact deposits will be fully wet-screened through 1/8-inch mesh.

    - If possible, the wet-screening will be conducted at the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness facility. However, if the volume of soil to be screened exceeds the capacity of that facility, an alternate location will be identified for temporary storage and wet-screening. The chosen location will be fully secure and selected in consultation with the MLD, Caltrans, and LACDWP.

CUL-5 Native American burials are often unmarked and can be disturbed during earth moving activities. As the activities proposed within the ROW are in a restricted location, avoidance of burials is difficult if not impossible. In the event human remains are encountered during construction activities, all excavation or disturbance in the area within the vicinity of the remains shall halt in accordance with Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98 and 5097.94, and §15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines and the Los Angeles County Coroner shall be contacted. Within 24 hours of notification, the coroner will call the NAHC if the remains are thought to be Native American. If the remains are deemed Native American in origin, the Native

American Heritage Commission immediately designates a person or persons it believes to be the most likely descended from the deceased (MLD) under Public Resources Code §5097.98. The MLD will then recommend means for treating and disposing with appropriate dignity the human remains and associated items, within 48 hours.

Approval of this Addendum and implementation of the Specific Plan of Work will supplement ***CUL-5*** *with the following language:*

At the conclusion of the project, a location within the Caltrans right-of-way may be designated for reburial of human remains, as determined by consultation between Caltrans and the MLD. Alternatively, an off-site location or a location outside of Caltrans property may be designated for reburial if arrangements can be made that are acceptable to the MLD and any other relevant parties including involved land owners.

FINDING:

The Specific Plan of Work for Archeological Mitigation presents minor technical changes or additions as discussed in California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Section 15164. The Specific Plan of Work for Archeological Mitigation does not constitute a substantial change in the proposed project, does not substantially change the circumstances under which the project is carried out, and does not raise to the level of significant new information that would have triggered either a subsequent or supplemental MND as discussed in Public Resources Code § 21166 or California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines §§ 15162 and 15163. Mitigation Measure **CUL-3** specifies that appropriate mitigation requires "the recovery of significant information" from an encountered cultural resource. The additional details and alternative methodologies for mitigation delineated in the Specific Plan Of Work are aimed at the recovery of scientifically significant information sufficient to reconstruct the nature of the prehistoric use of the area and will comply with all previously identified feasible mitigation measures. Thus, the project will not result in additional significant impacts.

ADDENDUM PREPARATION:

This Addendum to the Topanga Underground Utility District Relocation project MND was prepared by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Programs Development Division. The contact person is Mr. Edward Dingman at (626) 458-3933. This Addendum was completed on December 27, 2015.

AECOM

- DRAFT -
Not for Public Review

0 20 40 Feet
0 7.5 15 Meters
N

Topanga Underground Utility District Project

Figure 1
Construction Trench and Vault

Source
Esri (2013)

10/7/2015

Legend

- Utility Alignment
- Manhole
- Vault V5641010

Path: C:\Projects\60322401 - Topanga Canyon\MXD\AECOM TUUDP - Figure 1 - 20151007.mxd | Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N